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Letter dated 19 June 2002 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached report from Lesotho submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**
Chairman
Counter-Terrorism Committee

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Annex

Note verbale dated 17 June 2002 from the Permanent Mission of Lesotho to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council, and has the honour to present its report pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (see enclosure). The Permanent Mission of Lesotho regrets the late submission of the report.

Enclosure

Lesotho's report pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)

I. Introduction

With the increase in the number of incidents of terrorism worldwide, Lesotho has been keeping up with developments in the fight against terrorism.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks in the United States, Lesotho has significantly built up its efforts to guard against and prevent the spread of terrorism. Several administrative practices are now being effected at the national level, with the hope to prevent and counter both national and international terrorism.

II. Measures already taken by the Lesotho Government

1. First of all, while Lesotho still observes the provisions of the international covenants she is party to, it has tightened its procedures for dealing with asylum seekers to ensure that such persons have not, in their lifetime, planned, facilitated or participated in terrorist acts. This is also a precaution against perpetrators abusing refugee status;

2. Under the Bilateral Agreement with South Africa signed on 19 April, 2001, under the Security and Stability Cluster, Lesotho and its only neighbour agreed, in the Cluster meeting of May 2002, to exchange operational information regarding terrorist actions or movements, forged or falsified documents, traffic in arms and sensitive material, etc to enable each Party to take the necessary steps against the perpetrators of such acts. This will be effected by both the Intelligence Branches and Police of both parties. Modalities of achieving the above are already being dealt with by the concerned departments in their bilateral meetings;

3. Under the Extradition Treaty with South Africa, Lesotho has confirmed that for terrorist acts, claims of political motivation will not be recognized as grounds for refusing requests for the extradition of alleged terrorists. An article in the Treaty provides that a Party is not obliged to extradite if the offence is political or politically motivated, **but** excludes offences or conduct that constitute an offence in a multilateral agreement to which Lesotho and South Africa are parties, and parties are obliged to extradite such person(s);

4. Firm perimeter fences (razor wire) have been erected around five border posts to guard against the porousness of border-lines;

5. Ultra-light torches and lights at border check-points have been installed to improve on searching facilities;

6. Intelligence personnel have been deployed at state warehouses to monitor subversive activities around the clock;

7. Stricter measures are in place for issuance of residence permits;

8. There is closer cooperation and coordination amongst the departments responsible for ports of entry;

9. Stamps, blank forms and passports are securely locked away and only authorized personnel at the border have access to them;

10. Stricter searches and screening of all goods and persons embarking or disembarking at the airport are conducted;

11. Immigration, Customs and staff at the ports of entry have been taught to be vigilant and relate their respective roles to issues of State security;

12. All passports, including Lesotho passports, are scrutinized for authenticity and validity before endorsement;

13. Introduction of an entry and exit register, filled with accurate consistency and reflecting physical as opposed to postal addresses of persons.

III. Future activities

With the availability of funds, Lesotho hopes to effect other recommended measures, such as:

1) computerization of data at entry and exit ports;

2) erection of boom gates and other barriers to control groups;

3) installation of CCTV cameras and recorders at the airport;

4) building of transit points for those awaiting repatriation;

5) mechanism to address bribery of officials at ports of entry;

6) create more searching facilities with shelter and enough lights;

7) create a well-equipped emergency operation centre.

IV. Conclusion

As will be noticed, legislative measures per se, are still lacking and Government strongly feels it is its duty to improve on the situation. This will require a lot of capital, and in that respect the Government will highly appreciate some foreign injection of financial assistance. The Government of Lesotho will however remain committed to the struggle against terrorism and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).